

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated January 5, 2004. Claims 1-20 are pending. In the Office Action of January 5, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dunko et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,553,236 ("Dunko"), Serbetcioglu et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,719,918 ("Serbetcioglu"), and/or Jampolsky et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,625,437 ("Jampolsky"). Claim 20 was merely objected to, but the Examiner indicated claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The Examiner also objected to certain identified informalities in the specification.

By this amendment, claim 20 is rewritten in independent form and claims 1-18 are amended to substantively add the limitations that were in claim 20 thereto. The specification is amended to obviate the Examiner's objections. Claim 19 is cancelled. The amended claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reginald J. Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Reginald J. Hill
Registration No. 39,225
Attorney for Applicants

Date: March 31, 2004

JENNER & BLOCK, LLC
One IBM Plaza
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 222-9350